

Mayor David Sims called the City Council meeting of September 20, 2016 to order at 7:00 p.m. Present for the meeting were Mayor Sims, Council President Rick Alonzo, Council Members Ron Smith, Connie Wells and Adam Arthur, City Administrator Mike Klaus, City Attorney Andrakay Pluid, City Planner Lisa Ailport, Boundary Economic Coordinator Dennis Weed, Fire Chief Pat Warkentin, Police Chief Vic Watson, Deputy Clerk Jean Diel, and City Mechanic James Dorhofer. Present also were Reverend Carlos A. Perez, Larry Anderson, Timothy Reed, Marcia Cossette, Sue Larson, Dave Wenk, James Robinson, Barbara LePoidevin, Erik Brubaker, Mike Wade, Bill Amedei, Ginny Kirsch, Jeff Hughart, Mike Normandeau, Tim Dougherty, and Jerry Higgs.

Mayor Sims introduced guest Mike Normandeau from Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) who gave an update on the BPA contract. Mike explained the City begins the second year of the two-year rate period in October and no rate changes will be made this rate period, but wanted to alert the mayor and council to a rate change next October for FY 2018/19. It is anticipated a 6-9% power rate increase and potentially a 3-5 % transmission rate increase. Part of the contract is to update the purchase period election the City wishes, the present contract is through 2028. The City will need to provide notice to BPA if BPA will be the provider of choice for load growth for 2020-2024 which is due by the end of this month. Mike gave a brief explanation of what type of dollars in terms of utilities costs the city pays. On the wholesale side, power and transmission bills average \$175,000 a month. Energy cost averaged \$2.1 million for 12 months. The lowest bill was \$ 96,000 in May and the highest bill was \$229,000 in January. Two things are driving the volatility in this, one is weather and loads and the generation project in Moyie Springs. Mayor Sims made note of the meeting the City will be having for the selection.

The Public Hearing considering the vacating of the alleyway located within Block 2, Nixon's Hillcrest Addition by the Bonners Ferry Catholic Church and Sue Larson was the first item conducted. This will be conducted as a quasi-judicial hearing. The Mayor explained how the hearing was to be conducted.

Lisa Ailport summarized the staff report. The request by the petitioner has requested to vacate the alley to accommodate a future building site. The petitioners have fulfilled the requirements necessary to be able to have the meeting tonight. The City relies on Idaho code requirements and for vacation of right of way whether it is or is not in the interest of the public.

Eric Brubaker, a community planner, representing St. Ann's Catholic Church spoke on their behalf, highlighting the rebuilding the church in the neighborhood is consistent to the neighborhood and enhances the community. Their plans are to have a design on one floor for full access and the limitation of the alley may prevent the site plan development they wish to accomplish.

Mayor Sims asked the question of the constraints on the plan show what the alley creates. Mr. Brubaker agreed the plans show the constraints the alley creates. Mayor Sims asked if the gas line will be moved and Mr. Brubaker agreed if it was necessary.

Lisa reiterated this is a hearing to consider the vacation of the alley and they will be coming back for allowance of use.

The Mayor asked for public testimony. Two people wished to speak. Dave Wenk spoke in favor to move along on the process. Mike Wade, speaking in favor, pointed out the moving of the utilities will comply with all that is required. James Robinson referred to the friendliest city and highly requested to approve the vacation. Tim Dougherty expressed his feelings of the approval of the vacation to further the building of the church. Reverend Perez wants to rebuild the church and asked approve the vacation.

The Mayor asked for anyone to speak for the neutral position, and then any in opposition to the application. The Mayor asked Eric Brubaker for rebuttal but he did not feel it was necessary.

The Mayor closed the public hearing and then asked for discussion from the council, with no discussion he asked for a motion. Rick moved to approve this file VC01-16, to vacate a 16-foot wide alleyway with Block 2, Nixon's Hillcrest Addition within Book of Plats 1B, Page 50, finding that it is in accord with Idaho Code 50-1306A and the standards of approval as outlined in the staff report and testimony received at this hearing. I further move to adopt the following findings of fact and reasoned decisions and including the conditions of approval (as amended, or as submitted) and enumerated in the staff report. The action to be taken to obtain the vacation is to complete the conditions of approval as provided.

Conclusion 1:

The proposal was review for compliance with I.C. 50-1306A, procedures and 50-1318, in absence of opposition, and 50-1319, in presence of opposition and 50-1324 necessity of taxes paid. Therefore, the proposal is in accordance with the applicable standards.

Conclusion 2:

The vacation of right-of-way is in the interest of the public. Ron Smith seconded the motion. Lisa asked if there were any modifications to the conditions. With no further discussion, the Mayor asked for a roll call vote. Ron Smith, yes, Rick Alonzo, yes, Connie Wells, yes, and Adam Arthur, yes, the motion passed. The Mayor closed the Public Hearing.

After a 3 minute recess the Mayor re-opened the regular meeting with the first report from Police Chief Vic Watson. In the two week period there were two battery charges, one vandalism, one petit theft/burglary, one fight, one family disturbance/mental hold, one runaway, two vehicle crashes, two counterfeit currency cases, and nine speeding violations.

David asked for more information about the counterfeit bills. One was at the City Clerk's office and one at the bank. One bill was sent to the Secret Service in Spokane, and was told this bill was part of a case that had been circulating in the area for a while. The other bill was movie-prop money that can be bought off of the internet and passed at the bank. They are not considered counterfeit until it is tried to pass as real.

Fire Chief Pat Warkentin reported that in the last two weeks, false alarm at the Visitor Center, two EMS calls. They had five firefighters attend a three day class in Naples to become certified in extrication, and five more will be attending. A couple will begin a Firefighter One class. This will be attended by our new firefighters. Four firefighters have completed their six month probation period. Matt Solt and Bill McCabe are partnering to bring a flash over trailer, a training tool to our station. Recently the fire department has received a \$500 Firefighter License Plate Grant. Pat requested that the new fire fighters get on regular fire fighter duty and off of probation. Ron Smith asked if this could be put on the agenda for next time.

City Administrator Mike Klaus said the Augusta Street Project is behind schedule but going well. The paving will be next week. Pine Island Road, there are ground vaults needing to be replaced. The water and sewer crew are on Bingham Street putting in a man hole and replacing the sewer line, finally there are elevator problems again at the Visitor Center. Mike mentioned again the conversation with BPA, for the special council meeting on Friday, to make a decision by the end of the month on the rate selection.

Economic Development Coordinator Dennis Weed has begun the Main Street committee meetings. He hopes for more involvement from the South Hill businesses or citizens. Ron asked if council will have reports on what is taking place. Dennis concurred, that this is a public meeting with minutes and agenda. Dennis reported that Boise State is interested in the Visitor Center of taking it on as one of their projects. Dennis is also resurrecting the Visitor Center as a 501c3 organization. Business owners and one citizen will be on the board of directors. The real property is the City's and the organization will be operated under the 501c3. The reason to operate as a non-profit has advantages for the revenue and to go after certain grants for tourism.

Dennis also reported the Urban Renewal recently had an annual budget meeting.

Connie move to approve the consent agenda. Adam seconded the motion. The consent agenda contained the following: roll call; approval of bills and payroll; and approval of September 6, 2016 Council Meeting minutes and September 15, 2016 Special Council Meeting minutes. The motion passed- Ron Smith "yes", Rick Alonzo "yes", Connie Wells "yes", Adam Arthur "yes".

Ron Smith made the motion for the third reading of the Special Event Permit Ordinance by title only. Rick Alonzo seconded the motion and it passed – Ron Smith "yes", Rick Alonzo "yes", Connie Wells "yes", Adam Arthur "yes". Attorney Andrakay Pluid read into the minutes by title only

Adam Arthur made the motion to adopt Special Event Permit Ordinance #557. Connie Wells seconded the motion. The motion passed - Ron Smith “yes”, Rick Alonzo” yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Adam Arthur” yes”.

Next item on the agenda is the Homecoming Parade. Adam asked the chief of police if there were any issues about extending the curfew. He did not see there would be a problem as he understood it was a tradition. Ron Smith moved to approve the Homecoming Parade Permit for September 23, 2016 and extend the curfew for the Homecoming Dance to 1:00am. Rick Alonzo seconded the motion. The motion passed - Ron Smith “yes”, Rick Alonzo” yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Adam Arthur” yes”. Connie questioned the waiving of the fee as an additional note on the item and since a vote had been taken, a new motion was made by Ron Smith, and Rick seconded. The council passed the motion for the waiving of the fee.

Barb LePoidevin brought a model of one of the decorations she had in mind for the Georgia Mae Plaza, she also will have a tree and the trimming. She will be talking to the building owners to see if she can decorate the sides of their buildings. Adam moved to authorize Barb LePoidevin to decorate the Georgia Mae Plaza for Christmas, Connie Wells seconded. The motion passed - Ron Smith “yes”, Rick Alonzo” yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Adam Arthur” yes”. She asked if there was a group to ask about a theme for the decorations. With her gingerbread model it was decided that will be the theme.

The Mayor brought to Council’s attention of a letter of concern received about the compression brakes and loud noise from cars. Rick has been asking around about signage to alert truckers. Where these signs are placed is an issue on both sides of the town and what the sign would say. Mike volunteered he would like to look into this as he had some speed limit concerns he wanted to talk with ITD about.

Rick asked the Police Chief about a red card/form warning that was given out by officers. The chief said this is still a practice they use. Chris Langan added if a neighborhood car that frequents the area is sometimes easier to identify.

Rick Alonzo made the motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the fire protection contract with the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, Ron Smith seconded. The motion passed - Ron Smith “yes”, Rick Alonzo” yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Adam Arthur” yes”.

Adam Arthur made the motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the Dispatch Agreement with Boundary County for Fiscal Year 2017. Rick Alonzo seconded. The motion passed - Ron Smith “yes”, Rick Alonzo” yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Adam Arthur” yes”.

Mike Klaus reported two individuals were interviewed to the grant writer application. He requested the council’s approval of Panhandle Area Council as the selection committee’s recommendation. Connie Wells made the motion to approve PAC as the grant writers for the

City of Bonners Ferry. Rick seconded the motion. The motion passed- Ron Smith “yes”, Rick Alonzo” yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Adam Arthur” yes”.

Mike Klaus discussed the change order for the Augusta Street Project. Mike explained the final cleanup would be done by September 30, KG& T and have asked for four extra days for finalizing the project and cleanup. Mike felt a few extra days would extend this to October 10. This is what would change the contract time. Connie Wells was concerned of the extension of the time for completion and Adam asked about the project budget. Mike explained there will be a review that may or may not help in the budget concerns. Ron Smith moved to approve the change order for KG & T Septic for the Augusta Street Project. Rick seconded. The motion passed- Ron Smith “yes”, Rick Alonzo” yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Adam Arthur” yes”.

Ron Smith made the motion to approve the purchase of an aerator for the Lagoons. Rick seconded the motion. The motion passed - Ron Smith “yes”, Rick Alonzo” yes”, Connie Wells “yes”, Adam Arthur” yes”.

The Mayor asked the attorney Andrakay Pluid if the city should have Barb LePoidevin and any of her helpers sign on as volunteers for the City. She agreed we should ask her to provide the information.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

David Sims, Mayor

Attest:

Jean Diel, Deputy Clerk